A NEW INSTVCTION OF PLOWING AND SETTING OF CORNE, HANDLED IN MANNER OF A DIALOGVE betweene a Ploughman and a *Scholler*.

Wherein is proued plainely that Plowing and Setting, is much more profitable and lesse chargeable, than Plowing and Sowing.

By EDVVARD MAXEY. Gent.

He that withdraweth the Corne, the people will curse him: but blessing shall be vpon the head of him that selleth Corne. Prou.11.26.



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BRITISH MUSEUM

TO THE RIGHT WORSHIPFVL SIR RICHARD MARTEN KNIGHT, MASTER OF HER MAIESTIES MYNT, ALDERMAN, *and twise Lord Maior of the Citie of London.*

IT is well knowne (right Worshipfull) how great a benefactor and furtherer you haue been to many good workes and profitable to the Common-wealth: for by your imployments, the inhabitants of sundrie parts of England and Wales, haue gained for many yeeres, many thousand pounds yeerely. How much then those poore are bound to praise God for you, and such as further the like good works, all wise men acquainted with your great charge and trauell can testifie, which I thought worthy to be published, and left in memorie for other ages yet to come, to your great commendation and incouragement of others, to follow your good example. And now (right Worshipfull) calling to minde my former time spent in Hus-

bandrie; the moſt ſweete and comfortable kind of life to all vertuous minds (that *Adams* poſteritie can enioy) if it were not for the wickednes of ſeruants, who diſcourage many induſtrious minds; and ſeeing an vnskilfull Pamphlet (called *God ſpeede the Plough*) to be ſo long vnanſwered, ſet foorth by ſome Nouice in Husbandrie, as ſhould appeare as well by his writing, as that he ſaith in the ſame, it is none of his profeſſion; which hath and may doe much hurt by diſſwading men from ſo profitable an imployment as the ſetting of Corne; which when I conſidered, and remembring that I had ſpent the moſt part of thirtie yeeres in Husbandrie: I aduentured to publiſh this little Treatiſe, for the inſtruction of thoſe that will be perſwaded to practiſe this kind of excellent and profitable worke: which with my ſelfe I deſire to be protected by your accuſtomed louing fauour towards me.

Yours to be commaunded,

EDVV. MAXEY.

TO THE CHRISTIAN READER.

Whereas there are two bookes written concerning the ſetting of Corne: the firſt commending it, the ſecond diſgracing it; both of them diſcourſing ſo Schollerlike, that the plaine Countrie Husbandman, cannot iudge which of them hath moſt skill for inſtruction in this kinde of Husbandrie; and perceiuing that the ſecond treatiſe (called God ſpeede the Plough) *hath diſſwaded great numbers from the practiſe of ſetting of Corne: I was aduiſed and reſolued to aduenture the publike cenſuring of this Inſtruction. Wherein I deſire to proue how much more caſie and profitable, Plowing and Setting will be in all places, and that with leſſe charge, then either Plowing and Sowing, or digging and Setting, deſiring to be freed from all ſuſpition, to contend for art or learning with any of the former writers. And like a plaine Ploughman to ſhew my opinion, what I thinke of the former contention, betweene the Plowe and the ſpade: in a word, I iudge both theſe profitable inſtruments may right well be vſed in their proper places, that the Plowe may keepe his place in the fields, to the great increaſe of Corne, and the Spade in the Gardens for rootes, hearbs, and flowers, neceſſarie for houſehold prouiſion. And I could haue wiſhed you the Gentleman and author of the booke (called* God ſpeede the Plowe) *had taken better counſell of ſome skilfull Husbandman, before you had publiſhed a booke,*

A little good counſel would haue ſaued all your labour in writing, and mine in anſwering: but I hope it will doe good.

Lorke, wherein you indeuour to correct and teach an Arte, which you acknowledge is none of your profession, & to haue considered how easelie for the most part our English Nation are disswaded from good causes, either for the glorie of God, or the honour and profit of their Prince and Countrie: for though it be true, that very fewe innouations in the Church, or nouelties in a state, are not alwaies and generallie good, and profitable for all places, and for all people: yet these profitable inuentions, speciallie in Husbandrie, should rather be commended then disgraced, vntill a manifest error in them be discouered, and that by experience and proofe. Againe, you ought rather to haue remembred and well considered the lamentable case of the poore that liued in distresse in the late yeeres of dearth, who notwithstanding the charitable orders taken by her Maiestie, her honorable Counsell and other officers of the kingdome, to the glorie of God, and their high commendation: yet was it well seene with the eyes of the trulie charitable, that except the King of heauen and earth had relieued the poore people of this Land, with Corne out of his storehouses in other Countries; the poore and the rich also had been in hazard to haue perished by famine, that might haue fallen vpon this sinfull people, or by some wofull calamities, inseparable companions of penurie and want. And let euery indifferent man consider what huge quantities of Corne may yeerely be saued, that now is cast away by Plowing and Sowing: yet giue me leaue plainelie to giue you a proiect what this would come vnto. Some writers of our time account but nine thousand sixe hundred and two and fiftie Parishes, or thereabouts, in England, and suppose sixe hundred and two and fiftie of them to be in Cities and Townes vsing no Tyllage: and so account but nine thousand Countrie Parishes, and because the author of the booke (called Godspeede the Plough) writeth, that if a Parish haue three thousand Acres of erable land, which is about thirtie or fortie Ploughlands in a Parish, therefore mistrusting his iudgement,

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we will admit but ten Plowelands, one Pariſh with another; ſo nine thouſand Pariſhes hath foure ſcore and ten thouſand Plowlands, and that if in euery Ploweland there may eaſely be ſaued yeerely ten or twelue quarters of Seede Corne, that now is caſt away, which ſhall be directly proued, it will amount to ſome nine or ten hundred thouſand quarters of Graine that might euery yeere be ſaued in her Maieſties dominions: I dare affirme ſo much (be it more or leſſe) as would fetch hither the Indies Treaſure out of Spaine and other Countries farre diſtant; to the great honour and riches of our Prince and Countrie, and eſpeciallie the maintenance of our Engliſh Nauie, with plentifull prouiſion alſo of victuals for Souldiers both by Sea and Land, to their exceeding comfort, and the terror of all forraine enemies.

And to conclude, I wiſh that they whoſe hearts the Lord hath endewed with true wiſedome, and charitie, to remember and conſider well of this danger, from which the Lord hath ſo lately deliuered vs: and let vs all ſerue that God in the moderate vſe of his creatures, and not conſume in riotous gluttonie and drunkennes, ſuch great quantities of his bleſsings, to the hurt of our bodies and ſoules, the poore being readie to famiſh before our eyes. So I commend thee good Chriſtian Reader, to Gods protection, and this worke to the bleſsing of the Almightie.

The particular proofes of this good Husbandrie, ſhall be ſeene in a dialogue, betweene a Ploughman and a Scholler, for the better inſtruction of plaine Countrie people.

E. M.

A NEW INSTRVCTION OF PLOWING AND SETTING OF CORNE, HANDLED IN manner of a Dialogue betweene a *Ploughman and a Scholler.*

Ploughman.

SEeing I am appoynted to defend the profitable arte of ſetting of Corne, though in reſpect of learning very vnfit, yet becauſe I haue profeſſed and practized Husbandrie for the moſt part of thirtie yeeres, and that you, the author of the booke (called *God ſpeede the Plough*) ſay that husbandrie is no part of your profeſſion, I may hope to maintaine againſt you by way of argument in plaine Husbandrie, that Plowing and Setting is much better and more profitable, than either Plowing and Sowing, or Digging and Setting.

Scholler. I maruell that my booke doth ſo much offend you, I thought to haue pleaſed you and all Ploughmen, for ſo commending the olde faſhion of Plowing and Sowing.

Ploughman. Surely ſir you haue no otherwiſe offended me, than all other men that deſire the good of their Countrie, and be ſorie to ſee the ſimple abuſed and diſcouraged by your meanes, and how you pleaſe an other

ſort of wilfull men, that will neither know what may be profitable for themſelues, nor haue any ſuch heartie loue to their Countrie and poore neighbours, as they ought to haue. As for your booke, howſoeuer you meant, it ſerues to ſo little good purpoſe (in my conceite) that it was the chiefe cauſe that moued me to take this worke in hand, to correct (if it were poſſible) the euill humors and preiudicate opinions againſt Corne-Setting, that it hath planted in mens heads and hearts.

Scholler. I am ſorie that my booke ſhould breede any euill humors in mens heads or hearts, and I pray you what faults doe you finde in my booke?

Ploughman. Sir there be faults too many, which being the fruites of your idle houres (as you ſay) be not much to be marueiled at, for ſeldome doth idlenes bring forth any profite in husbandrie. And it is not my purpoſe to expoſtulate with you vpon all particular faults; they are too many to trouble the reader with: but you ſhall heare mine opinion, like a man of my plaine profeſſion, & I will tell you my minde what I doe thinke in this argument, as well as I can. To paſſe ouer other matters, I will begin to defend our old faſhion of Ploughes, againſt your ſtrange Plough, that you ſay *might be ſo made and handled, that it may goe deeper by a foote more than ordinarie, proportioning the ſtrength of the Teeme and Plough together.* Sir, if you can deuiſe a Plough that will goe deeper in all grounds (for you make no difference) a foote more than ordinarie, it were good you brought it forth; for ſurely it is likely to proue an implement of great force to our Engliſh Huſbandrie: for with it you muſt be compelled to plowe land twentie inches deepe or thereabouts, and yet I muſt confeſſe to my remembrance, I neuer ſaw any Plough, though drawne with ten oxen, to goe aboue eight or ten inches

Note that the queſtion betweene the olde faſhion Ploughes and this ſtrange Plough, is but to proue the Plough apt to ſet Corne.

inches ordinarilie, and that with much a doe; and I pray you, how many Oxen or Horſe will your Plough require to be drawne with? for in ſome places if you make it goe, we plaine countrie men will ſuſpect you will Coniure: and in many places the qualitie of the mould will not permit our ten inches, much leſſe your two and twentie. Againe, what vſe I pray you ſhall the Common-wealth haue of ſuch an implement, where either it cannot goe vnles the diuell draw it, or may not goe for the euill mould it will turne vp? and ſo your Plough in that place doth more harme, than your booke can doe good any where elſe.

Scholler. Not ſo ſir, I will haue my Teeme and my Plough ſo made, that it ſhall goe well of that depth in ſuch grounds, as I will chuſe to ſet my Corne in.

Ploughman. It may be poſſible (if it pleaſe God to worke ſuch wonders by your inuention) but we the poorer ſort of Husbandmen, cannot make Ploughs, and prouide Teemes of that value and qualitie; neither haue we ſuch change of Land, as to make choyſe of apt grounds to beare the weight of ſuch Plowes & Teemes; but I doubt not by Gods helpe, to plowe and dreſſe ten Acres of Land, as well as you ſhall doe with your ſtrange Plough, or any man ſhal do with a ſpade, except he digge it two ſpit deepe, & ſo burie the firſt ſpit with the ſecond, which wil be both extreme chargeable and impoſſible in moſt grounds; and yet where he may digge but one ſpit, there will remaine needes vnburied ſpecially the Cooch, which I neuer ſaw deſtroyed, but with a ſommer fallow, or burning the land, as the Deuonſhire men doe: the which killing of weedes, howſoeuer it can be done, is the chiefe cauſe, that vpon extreame barren Land, thoſe countrie people haue good Corne, which otherwiſe

The destroying of weedes, a chiefe poynt in Husbandry.

should haue little or none: and I desire all good Husbands to consider how necessarie it is for them to destroy the weedes, before they sowe or set their Corne, that (if possiblie they can) they suffer not the weeds to sucke out the sappe of their grounds in the spring time, and all sommer, before they commit their seede to the ground, indangering it with such enemies, which they may doe (in my opinion) by one or two plowings more in their sommer fallow aboue ordinarie, if the weedie condition of the Land, or the season of the yeere doe require it.

Scholler. Well sir, admit you doe plowe your Land as well as the Spade can doe it, as deepe as your Plough will goe, yet as I say, you cannot plowe it deepe enough, nor lay it leuell and plaine for the setters to worke vpon.

The Corne sowed aboue furrow, often lieth not one inch deepe.

Ploughman. To this I answere, first that I will plow it deepe enough, for what should let my Corne to grow as well, and much better (being set in due proportion & order) when it hath as much hollow & loose ground vnder him, to spread roote and lie pleasantly in, as your booke or the former appoynts, or as our sowne Corne euer had, since sowing was first vsed, and that is but three or foure inches deepe: and as farre as I know, our english Corne rooteth not past two or three inches directly downwards. So then, if it roote downewards, and spring vpwards but fiue or sixe inches at the most; I meruaile why you should thinke I should not plowe it deepe enough, when your selfe saith you will plowe it yet deeper by a foote more if neede be, and I pray you so do, but take heede you meete not with those furious beasts you speake of in your book, that will deuoure the Corne when it lieth so deepe and light, for if they catch you and your Plough (in most grounds of England) they would surely deuoure your Plough, and put your person in great hazard, without

This Plough will serue to make ditches, but for the danger of those beasts.

speedie

ſpeedie helpe: and therefore we will not plow ſo deepe, it is good ſleeping in a whole skin. But if you had been contented with halfe a foote more then ordinarie, there had been ſome poſſibilitie in ſome places, yet with much adoe: therfore I pray you giue ſome men leaue, that haue or may haue good Teemes & Ploughs, though not made after your faſhion, to goe but two or three inches more than ordinary, & then they may plow ſome ten or twelue inches with much adoe where the land will permit, ſo if our Corne haue fiue or ſixe inches to ſpring vpward, (euen from the lower moſt part of his roote) and as much downward, it ſhall be ſufficient to content vs with the increaſe of eyght or ſixe quarters vpon an Acre: doe you plowe it deeper for thirtie or twentie quarters vpon an Acre (God ſend it you that venter ſo deepe for it.) Note well. And as for laying our ground leuell and plaine, we will not follow your counſell in your booke, nor feare your woodden dagger, your huſwife-like inſtructions are to rake away the graſſe that the light Harrow leaueth, till it be as leuell as a Garden, and then to ſet it; as though any good husband would haue his Land ſo out of tilth, and ouergrowne with weedes, that at ſowing or ſetting time, the Land ſhould neede the raking of the graſſe, after a good ſommer fallowe. It is time for ſuch a Ploughman to throwe his Plough in the hedge, and take the Spade in hand, and become one of your threeſcore laborers: and then in the ſame place you tell vs of laying it as leuell as a Garden. And I pray you ſir, then what ſhall become of the Corne of the beſt and moſt grounds of England, ſpeciallie for Wheate and Rie? For if you leuell it ſo like a Garden, without all queſtion, it will be drowned for the moſt part, & come to little or no good at all, for all men I thinke that euer ſaw Husbandrie, or vnderſtoode Winter Corne cannot lie too hie in moſt grounds.

naturall reaſon, know that ſuch Land; nay, moſt Land muſt be laide high and round with furrowes, according to the qualitie of the ſoile, or elſe the ſeede will be drowned. And to breake the clods, we may vſe the Rowler, as we doe for our Barlie if neede be, and ſo much ſhall ſerue for inſtruction, or rather perſwaſion of ſuch as you haue inueigled with ſo many idle doubts, in a matter that may be perceiued by thoſe that are not wilfullie blinde, or not skilfull at all in Husbandrie.

Scholler. Not ſo ſir, theſe are not altogether ſo idle as you make them, but I pray you how will you make this barren Land rich enough, to haue ſuch increaſe as will anſwere the charge of ſetting?

Ploughman. Indeede that is not altogether ſo idle as the other, but yet very eaſie to be anſwered, and very likelie to be compaſſed, euen in the barreneſt Countries and places farre remoued from all meanes to enrich their Land. Here then I would aduiſe all good Husband-men that intend ſetting, to lay all their ſoile and foule doung that they vſed to ſcatter ouer thirty Acres or there abouts, (being their ordinarie ſeaſon) I ſay, lay it vpon ten Acres. And by reaſon they leaue twentie Acres to reſt, they ſhall keepe more ſtore of Sheepe either of their own, or take to folde of other mens, and ſo keep them better, and by that meanes their folde will be much bigger, and their Land will be folded much better: and if there be any Marle of Chalke, or of other ſort of good molde neere to be had by any meanes, they ſhall now haue leaſure to fetch it, by reaſon they haue ſo little tillage to doe: or elſe doe this, follow the example of a Gentleman that made a great quantitie of ſoile, by the fodering of all his Cattell vpon a peece of exceeding ranke ground about an Acre, which being very good and reſtie Land neere his houſe,

he

he plowed vp in the end of Aprill, when his Cattell went to graſſe, and with two or three plowings ſo mixed the reſtie ranke ground with the doung and fodder of his cattell, that he had ten loade for one of very good ſoile, (to the fatting of other grounds) then otherwiſe he ſhould haue had; and alſo there is much dounge to be made with Ferne in places where it is neere: many good Husbands do prouide great ſtore in ſummer, that in winter will ſerue for cattell to ſit drie vpon, and make great ſtore of ſoile, with little coſt, hauing now ſo much leiſure in this ſmall Tillage. By theſe and diuers other good meanes very common and eaſie, when men haue little plowing, they may ſo inrich their land, that they ſhall not neede to doubt of a better increaſe (by Gods helpe) ſufficient to pay the charge of ſetting liberally, with threefold increaſe at Harueſt.

Scholler. Then you may fall into another inconuenience, that I warned you of in my booke, that is, to make your land too ranke, and then your Corne will ledge, and euery ſtalke will be ſlender and long, euery eare will be heauier and longer than ordinarie, and ſo the Corne will fall downe and ledge, and come to little good.

Ploughman. This inconuenience will eaſilie be helped. Wee had firſt neede to helpe our barren land, and make it hartie, and then for falling and ledging I will ſet it thin enough, as the qualitie of the ground requireth: for it is the thicke ſowing of ranke land vpon euill tillage that cauſeth Corne to ledge. If the land be rich and the yeere wet, the Corne ranke, and the weedes many; then (as you ſay) it is like to ledge: few poore men in England complaine their land is too rich, or deſire their Corne more thin, for then their purſes would be more emptie. I could eaſilie teach them ſuch tricks as well as you with all

Note.

your

Reason and experience teacheth and proueth, that the straw will be bigger and much stronger.

your cunning: and as for the length and slendernes of the straw, I doubt not but it will be fit to beare the heauie eares, which God send me, and take you the light if you like them better.

Scholler. Your reasons may proue good for sowing, but for setting, you will be set a ground presentlie. For where will you get people enow to set a Season fit for a Teeme to be kept on? All the labourers in the Countrie will scant serue you, and fiue or sixe such as you would be.

Ploughman. Sir, I wonder what you meane to talke still so idlie, as though it were fit for me or any man, to set our whole seasons, when we haue laide all our soile, and bestowed all our labour, tillage, and cost, vpon the third part onely, to the intent to make that so hartie and rich, that by all reason, common experience, and Gods blessing, it may yeeld as much and more increase than the whole would haue done. Neither am I tied by any necessitie (that I know of) to set all my third part, vnlesse I may doe it conuenientlie in all respects: for when I haue thus plowed my land and made it readie to set, I may sowe thereof what I will if I lacke setters, and it is likelie to beare three times as much, being thus well handled; as other poore barren land so misused for lacke of such good Husbandrie. But now for setting of ten Acres of Wheate or Rie, or other graine, being the third part of most mens Season, why should I not finde people enow to set them, seeing you confesse that threescore laborers, and twentie women and children, will digge and set thirtie Acres in seuen weekes? Why good sir, if I be at the charge, and can dresse my land with my Plough my selfe, what haue I to doe with your threescore labourers that should haue been imployed in your digging: I will

Note well.

spare

ſpare them all for you, ſeeing you will needes haue ſo many Acres digged, for you might as well haue vnderſtoode Maſter *Plat*, the author of the firſt booke, that he meant not to haue the whole number of euery mans ſeaſon to be digged, when he propoſed that three Acres might beare as much as thirtie: And although I am of your opinion, this will ſeldome proue true in action, yet cannot you nor the beſt Scholler in England diſproue the principles that he grounds his proportion vpon, for he addes diuers approued examples in practiſe to proue his arguments. And for your twentie women and children, poore people, I am ſorrie; for the moſt of them may ſtill want worke, and liue a ſtaruing kinde of miſerable life, for by your perſwaſions they ſhould earne iuſt nothing; and ſo none of the poore by this meanes ſet to worke in your Husbandrie. Well, yet I will propoſe leſſe worke by the third part in my Husbandrie, and ſo will haue but the third part of your women and children; which being but ſeuen, will ſet my ten Acres in ſeuen weekes, whileſt your threeſcore diggers and twentie women and children be digging and ſetting your thirtie Acres in the ſame time by your owne account: and by Gods helpe, if this third part of the land be imployed, we ſhall haue worke ſufficient for all our poore people, and poore people enow for all our worke. I will therefore ſpare you foure or fiue of thoſe ſeuen poore people for a ſupplie to your companie, leaſt any ſhould happen to faile in ſome hot skirmiſh, and then I ſhall onely be troubled with ſome two or three of your poore people, or ſome lame Souldier; he will ſerue my turne though he want a legge or an arme: and ſo let vs recken the charge of three poore women and children, which will be hired for eighteene pence a day at moſt, which is but nine ſhil-

Note.

Prouiſion for lame and maimed Souldiers.

lings a weeke, and for ſeuen weekes is three poundes three ſhillings for the wages of thoſe poore people, vnto whom I will ioyne our two plow-folkes; for away goe our Teemes to reſt and gather fleſh againſt winter, our Wiues will ſpare one of their maides, and many of vs haue two or three children, and our ſelues for ouer-ſeers of the worke, all theſe are aboue nine perſons for your ſeuen, and all their charges is but three poundes three ſhillings more than ordinarie; and ſo you ſee that two or three poore people at moſt with our owne familie, ſhall be as well able to ſet our ten Acres in ſeuen weekes, as your foureſcore men, women and children ſhall digge and ſet thirtie Acres in the very ſame time. But if you thinke that Wheate or Rie will be ſet in the beginning of March in rich land, as you ſay in your booke (and truly I am of your opinion) and the rather, becauſe you affirme that the beſt croppe of Corne that euer you ſaw, was a ſommer croppe of Wheate vpon a rich ground: now it will be a great commoditie if we may ſtay to ſet our richeſt land vntill after Chriſtide: for by ſome meanes or other, we may by that time make ſome of our land better than other, and the nature of ſome land of it ſelfe is much better than other; then will we ſet our pooreſt land firſt, and begin about the middle of September, or neere thereupon, euery Countrie and place, as the condition of the land requireth, and ſo continue ſetting in the faireſt weather, vntill the middle of December or there abouts; ſo then we ſhall haue ſome thirteene weeks at leaſt before Chriſtide, and ſome ſeuen weekes after, before March. Thus a poore Farmer may well ſet ten Acres in twentie weekes with his owne familie, hauing wife and children as moſt haue, and doe it all by leaſure.

Charges of ſetting.

Ten Acres as ſoone plowed and ſet with ſeuen people, as thirtie digged and ſet with foure ſcore.

It is moſt certaine that this late ſetting or ſowing being in very good ground, is the beſt to auoide the Mildew and the ſmut.

Scholler. I muſt needes confeſſe, that your experience hath

hath taught you to say more in this matter than I conceiued of it before. But yet seeing you looke for no more increase than sixe or eight quarters vpon an Acre, it is not the admirable arte the first booke speakes of (which made me mislike and write as I did) for many men in diuers places haue had the like increase; neither doe I yet perceiue how the charges of setting will be answered, nor any matter worthie so great account as you make of it.

Your mislike or writing, will not hinder, if it proue profitable.

Ploughman. What you see I know not, or what the cause should be I cannot tell, that so many men should be so blinde or so vnwilling to see how to doe themselues and their neighbours so much good: but I feare me it is the iust punishment of God vpon vs the sinfull people of this good Land, that we hauing so great plentie of all good things, do consume with gluttonie and with drunkennesse so great blessings of God alreadie bestowed vpon vs: and if we should by this meanes or any other, expect a greater aboundance than yet we haue receiued, it is to be feared that the Lord that seeth how wickedlie we would consume it, will not permit such an vnthankfull people to receiue so exceeding great a benefit, but euen by our owne frowardnes will quite ouerthrow it. But yet let vs see if we can possiblie be brought to discerne any thing worthie account in this noueltie, as you tearme it: And for example, say that thirtie Acres by Rodde, will require three bushels of seede *Winchester* measure to euerie Acre, (for so you say it will) and so in most land it doth, which is eleuen quarters and two bushels of seede to thirtie Acres: What is the vsuall increase vpon an Acre in the common fields barren land?

A caueat for gluttons and drunkards.

Take heede of murmuring and vnthankfulnes, ioyned with frowardnes.

In some part of Essex their land requireth lesse seede, well obserued by some good Husbands.

Scholler. The increase of an Acre of such barren land, commonly is not aboue two quarters one yeere with an-

ther,and one Acre with another,and when they ſo doe, there neede be no dearth in England; for where one hath aboue, three hath not ſo much: and therefore you will hardlie approue that your ſetting will be to any great purpoſe in thoſe common fields,barren Land.

Ploughman. Verie well ſir, I am glad you haue declared your conceite in this poynt, and euen for thoſe barren Countries and barren common fields, doe I auowe this Husbandrie to be moſt profitable, and for their ſakes onlie and altogether doe I take all this paines, and vſe ſo manie perſwaſions againſt ſo many fond obiections, as you and moſt men vſe againſt this good Husbandrie of Corne ſetting, and not for thoſe that are occupiers of rich land, either by nature or ſo made by ſoile. Their increaſe is plentifull alreadie, and therefore I thinke it no great worke of charitie to beſtow much labour vpon ſuch rich men,as commonlie with good Husbandrie vſe ſuch rich land: but I ſpeake and write for poore men,and deſire to make their poore land and them the richer by this good Husbandrie, which I will maintaine vpon equall tearmes or by practiſe, with any Husbandman in England,of what countrie or ſhire ſo euer he be or dwell in. And now to our purpoſe again,and I pray you marke well what I ſay,you confeſſe (as the truth is) that an Acre by the Rodde will beare but two quarters commonlie one yeere with another,which is but threeſcore quarters for thirtie Acres,and that ſuch an Acre will require three buſhels to ſowe it,which is for thirtie Acres eleuen quarters and two buſhels of ſeede, as aforeſaide; ſo then take your eleuen quarters two buſhels of ſeede ſowed at ſeede time, out of threeſcore quarters reaped at harueſt, there will remaine fortie eight quarters and ſixe buſhels increaſe by this computation: then come to our ten Acres

The beſt ſetting of Corne is in the common fields, barren land, when by theſe inſtructions it is ſo amended.

Note well.

of

of like meaſure, which will be ſet with fiue buſhels, what may we looke for euerie yeere vpon an Acre ſet with halfe a buſhell? by Gods bleſſing we are as likelie to haue ſixe or ſeuen quarters vpon an Acre that is well dunged, tilled, the ſeede choiſelie picked, and the land orderlie ſet, as other haue had vpon an Acre ſowne, which is vpon ten Acres threeſcore and ten quarters: And what is then our increaſe of theſe ten Acres, if you take fiue buſhels of ſeede ſet at ſeede time, out of threeſcore and ten quarters reaped at harueſt, there will remaine ſome threeſcore and nine quarters and three buſhels increaſe; ſo it is manifeſt, that our increaſe by ſetting of ten Acres with fiue buſhels, is more then by ſowing of thirtie Acres with eleuen quarters and two buſhels, by ſome twenty quarters and fiue buſhels.

Scholler. Say that all this doe follow, as you would haue it, and truly I cannot deny but it may; yet the charge of ſetting and the trouble will be ſo great, that it will not be worth the practiſe.

Ploughman. Well, it is manifeſtlie proued, that two or three poore people with the ordinarie familie of all men that ſowe thirtie Acres to a ſeaſon, may ſet ten Acres, and that the wages of thoſe poore people for ſetting time, was but three poundes three ſhillings at ſixe pence a day: and for that charge, you do ſaue twentie Acres of land at fiue ſhillings an Acre, fiue poundes; and the Plowing of that land three plowings to euery Acre before you ſowe it, which is threeſcore plowings at two ſhillings euerie time, is ſixe poundes: then you ſaue ſome twentie quarters and fiue buſhels of Corne as aforeſaid, worth in moſt yeeres twenty ſhillings a quarter, comes to twentie poundes twelue ſhillings ſixe pence. So by this reckening, which in truth and ſubſtance cannot be denied,

you will ſaue ſome one and thirtie poundes twelue ſhillings ſixe pence. And although I doe priſe the twentie Acres ſo ſpared as aforeſaid, at fiue ſhillings an Acre (as it were to be let out for rent) yet I rather thinke that any good Husband that ſo ſpareth twentie Acres to reſt from his principall ſeaſons of Wheate, Rie, or Barlie, will ſowe (after the olde faſhion if it pleaſe him) ſome ſixe, eight, or ten Acres with Peaſe, Beanes, Bucke, otherwiſe called french Wheate, or with Oates vpon one earth or Plowing, whereby he may haue great ſtore of ſtrawe for his Cattell, meate for his wiues Hens, and prouender for his Horſe, ouer and beſides ſo much increaſe and profite of thoſe ſixe, eight or ten Acres, as ſhall defraie all the extraordinarie charge of ſetting with aduantage. And becauſe I haue heard this kinde of complaint often; and many men doubt their neighbours and their own ſeruants will not meddle with ſuch a pidling troubleſome worke, whoſe frowardnes no doubt will doe much hurt: I wiſh any ſuch that dwell amongſt ſuch neighbours, or haue ſuch ſeruants (as indeed I thinke many haue) to ſell ſome three or foure quarters of their ſeede corne, that before was ſpared, and allow double their wages to ſtraungers, and I will aſſure them workmen plentie to doe ſo eaſie and cleane a worke. And yet then the charge will be but ſixe pound ſixe ſhillings: which taken out of the former profits, there will remaine ſome twentie fiue pound ſixe ſhillings ſixe pence, which will helpe a poore Farmer towards the payment of his rent.

This obiection is none of your owne Maſter Scholler, you had helpe of a Lawyer.

Scholler. Your compariſon betweene tenne acres paſſing well husbanded and made rich, and then ſet, and thirtie acres of barren land ſowed, no doubt will bee a matter of great difference, and therefore I wiſh to be followed of all men. But what ſay you to good land, either

by

by nature or helpe of ſoyle, that will vſually beare fiue or ſixe quarters vpon an acre: and if your ſetting will amount to no more increaſe, then after a man hath laid all his coſt vpon ſo ſmall quantitie of land, and made it ſo good, he will ſow it, and ſaue the charge of ſetting.

Ploughman. If this booke do but perſwade our countrimen, that occupie much barren land, to ſow but the third part or halfe their land, which they were wont to worke out of heart, with their poore cattell and themſelues, I ſhall not onely thinke my labour happely beſtowed in writing, but all the poore people may thank God as much for the printing of it, as for any booke ſet foorth in our time, (for a matter of this qualitie) and which is of no ſmall importance for the common-wealth of this land. But yet I muſt not yeeld that plowing and ſowing will be of like profit for the common-wealth, as plowing and ſetting, ſeeing the ſame will be done yet with much leſſe charge, comparing tenne acres of the beſt land ſet, with other tenne as good ſowed, which I will prooue by example and tried experience: and firſt it is wel knowne by often triall, that leſſe then halfe a buſhel of very choiſe ſeede wheate, will ſet as much land as three buſhels will ſowe. So that whereas ten or twelue great Acres of land will require ſome three or foure quarters to ſowe them; the ſame land may be ſet with ſixe or ſeuen buſhels at the moſt, for there will be ſaued ſome three quarters of the beſt ſeede Corne euery yeere, which is now worth fortie ſhillings a quarter, and commeth to ſixe poundes, and exceedeth the extraordinarie charge of ſetting aforeſaid by much, and will amount to the ſauing of ſome three hundred thouſand quarters of the beſt Wheate and Rie growing in this Land: and much more in Barlie, Peaſe, and Beanes, and ſo of all ſorts of graine: I thinke it would ſaue

Fiue or ſixe thouſand quarters of Graine ſaued euery yeare by Corne ſetting, all obiections anſwered.

ſaue aboue fiue or ſixe hundred thouſand quarters euery yeere in her Maieſties Dominions. And yet giue mee leaue to tell you Gentleman, that I dare confidently auow (ſeeing both reaſon doth teach and experience doth proue) that an Acre orderly ſet, will yeeld more increaſe by ſome three quarters, than an Acre ſowne: which increaſe at Harueſt being added to the other three quarters ſaued at ſeede time, commeth to ſome ſixe quarters of Corne at fortie ſhillings a quarter, twelue pound, as it is now worth, in many Countries, which will defray the charges of ſetting double, though your Plowmen follow their Teemes & giue vs no help. And yet this I muſt confeſſe, that in time of great plentie, when Corne is at a low price, and where chargeable ſeruants or labourers dwell, that will not ſerue or worke vnder fiue pound and a fuſtian doublet; or in ſuch places where their land and themſelues are ſo rich: with ſuch times, places and perſons, this poore booke, or rather booke for the poore, hath yet little to ſay, vntil ſuch time as they be brought to conſider; that after great plentie may follow as great ſcarſitie, the wealthieſt Corne-maſter and ſtouteſt labourer or ſeruant, may in time become like one of their pooreſt neighbours. Great men in this and all ages haue been ſubiect to their fall. *Iob* was accounted as rich in his time, as the greateſt Corne-maſter or the wealthieſt Vſurer that liues in our time: yet the Lord made an example of his ſeruant *Iob* to all poſteritie, albeit hee was *an vpright and iuſt man, one that feared God and eſchued euil. If vengeance begin at the houſe of God, where ſhall the wicked and vngodly appeare.* I write not this againſt good minded men, whom it hath pleaſed God to bleſſe with plentie of Corne, and yet loue their brethren and poore neighbours: ſome ſuch good men no doubt haue been and yet are in England,

Chargeable ſeruants and ill workemen, a great hinderance to all good Huſbandrie.

Laſie vſurie, a capitall enemie to all induſtrious huſbandrie, Iewes onely did vſe it in England, about the raigne of King Richard the firſt, anno 1189.

Iob. 1. 1. 1. *Pet.* 4. 7.

land, who may be accounted patterns for others to follow, or patrons, that is, fathers to their Countrie, by ſtoring vp Corne in the time of plentie, with purpoſe to bring it forth in ſcarcitie, to ſell it at a lower rate for the good of the poore. Such good men no doubt are to be praiſed with gracious *Ioſeph*, who by laying vp of Corne in the time of plenty, preſerued not only the whole kingdome of Ægypt, but alſo the whole Church of God, then viſible on earth, for which cauſe his induſtrie is recorded and commended for the inſtruction of all poſteritie. And by the way, I wiſh all murmuring people to conſider what it is to grudge and repine againſt Gods works, and to be more aduiſed how they ſpeake againſt good Magiſtrates and ſuch good men, as carefullie reſpect the publike weale of the Land. Furthermore, that it may yet appeare more manifeſtly, that plowing and ſetting of Corne is euery way much more profitable and leſſe chargeable than plowing and ſowing, and that euerie Farmer may eaſilie ſet the third part of his land with his owne familie, and two or three of the pooreſt people only at ſetting time (whereby he may yet haue more leaſure to practiſe and performe euerie complement that ſhall be likelie to further his increaſe) let him Tyll but the third part of his land, as of thirtie Acres ten, and ſo whereas he was wont to giue his thirtie Acres vpon a ſommer fallow, ſome foure or fiue plowings (as ſome grounds will require) and as moſt good Husbands doe: for thereby they doe kill the weedes, which of all things I would all men ſhould moſt ſpeciallie regard: So then thirtie Acres hauing at leaſt foure plowings, amounteth to an hundred and twentie daies worke at the leaſt; and ten Acres hauing fiue plowings euerie Acre, which is but fiftie daies worke at the moſt: ſo here is threeſcore and

The murmuring of the people prouoketh Gods wrath.

Exod. 16.2. *Numb.* 11.13.

ten daies worke ſpared in your winter ſeaſon for Wheate or Rie, and as much for Barlie, which being in all one hundred and twentie daies worke or there about, is very neere the third part of the whole yeere ſpared for your Plowes and Teemes, which I wiſh ſhould be otherwiſe imployed to ſome good worke, as no doubt but euerie good Husband will finde worke enough for them to do. But yet let them beſtowe ſome part of this time ſo well gained, a little to ſerue God in prayer morning and euening, either in their priuat families, or with a diligent Miniſter (they that dwel neere the Church) one halfe houre in a morning or euening, or both: if they haue any thing to doe at Church with God, or with their neighbours, it will be a good meeting place if it be done to good purpoſes. It is a ſmall portion of ſo many daies ſpared, and no doubt but God will the rather bleſſe the increaſe of ſuch as will ſerue him, according as he hath promiſed; and as the Scripture ſaith, *Paul* planteth, *Apollo* watereth, but it is the Lord, no doubt, that giueth the increaſe, as well in temporall as in ſpirituall bleſſings. Thus we all muſt beleeue, and ſo I hope we doe, vnleſſe there be any of ſo deſperate and curſed opinion, that thinks there is no God to bleſſe and helpe their increaſe, which God forbid that her Maieſties dominions ſhould beare any ſuch deteſtable and curſed imps and lims of Sathan to reſt on this earth, that ſhould ſo much as giue any cauſe of ſuſpition of any ſuch abomination: ſo as many as doe ſo well begin the day with the ſeruice of God, may cheerefullie expect from the Almightie a bleſſing vpon their labours: who promiſeth to bleſſe the worke of our hands if we feare him. And to proceede in this argument yet a little further in our Husbandrie, which no doubt may be yet exceedinglie furthered diuers waies in this time ſo well gained,

The third part of the yeere ſpared from plowing, by ſetting of corne, therefore forget not therein to ſerue God.

Beware of Atheiſme.

gained: as firſt to make great choiſe of our Seede corne: for as Maſter *Plat* well ſaith, euerie corne that is within the eare is not apt to grow, for God hath created ſome of them for the food of liuing creatures, and ſome for ſeed. There be in euerie eare certaine abortiue or baſtardlie cornes ſmall and whinderlings, which will hardlie grow, and are vnprofitable for any good increaſe: but there are other cornes which are bigger and fairer then the reſt, which (no doubt) God by nature hath ordained for good and great increaſe: and therefore ſeeing you haue ſo much leiſure, you may ſpend more time in picking your Seede, corne after corne, if you thinke good. But indeed the beſt way and moſt ſpeedie is to put the corne into a tub of water, and ſo the moſt heauie corne will ſooneſt ſinke to the bottome, and the lighteſt (with other ſeedes which were wont to be ſowen) you may take preſentlie away: for els in a ſmall time the lighter will alſo ſinke, by taking water to make it heauie alſo. But you muſt doe this but a little before you intend to ſow it, and in doing whereof you may helpe your Seed corne verie much, as it were with a dunging, as I my ſelfe haue done my Seede barlie. When the yeere hath prooued drie at Barlie ſeed time, I haue cauſed certaine wotting fattes or tubs, vſed for Malting, to be filled with water, and cauſed Cow dung and Pigeon dung to be put into the ſame water, ſtirring it together, and it hath ſtood a day or two, but the longer the better, with often ſtirring it. Then haue I let or powred out the ſame water from the dung, and put it into other cleane veſſels: and then I put in my Seede all day and all night, and the next day tooke it out and laid it vpon a floore to dry it fit to handle, and caſt abroad by ſowing. And trulie that Barlie hath ſhot an eare as ſoone as other that was ſowen ſome fourteene daies be-

The choiſe of the ſeede, the killing of the weede, and reſting of the land, and time ſo well gained, to doe all this and ſerue God too, is like to bring a good increaſe.

The beſt way to make choiſe of your ſeede.

fore it. Whereof (in my opinion) one great commoditie dooth follow, in that the corne (ſpeciallie Barlie) at that time of the yeere commeth away ſo ſpeedelie, that it out groweth all the weedes, who are the chiefe and deadlie enemies to all corne. Thus the corne may flouriſh and be maſter of the field, like a braue Captaine: for ſo no doubt hee getteth better roote to begin the world with, and more heart to continue and bring foorth increaſe more aboundantlie, when it hath at firſt gotten the ſtart and vpper hand of his mortall enemies. This picking and watring worke is fitteſt to be performed by the good wife, and her maides, and children at home, and our hundred and twentie daies that wee ſpared from plowing, as aforeſaid, yet giueth more time to the good man and his Ploughmen with their Teemes to fetch Marle of Chalk, or of any other kind of ſoile, fit for the condition of their land, if it be poſſible to be had, as no doubt it is in moſt places, though in ſome they may happen to goe farre for it: but in ſixe or ſeuen weekes (part of the foreſaid time) a Teeme will carrie much, though it be farre to fetch. Further alſo thoſe that haue ſower barren colde grounds, may in this time all by leiſure, follow the example of the Corniſh and Deuonſhire men, that beate and burne their land, which no doubt is an excellent peece of good Husbandrie, and now vſed by good Husbands in manie places of England and Wales. And whereof Cornewall and Deuon hath ſo taſted the benefit, that whereas of late time Cornewall was wont to haue moſt of their bread-corne by ſea from other countries, now by this meanes they haue great plentie to ſpare, and ſend ouer much by ſea into other countries. There will be manie other profitable workes found out by manie good Husbands to keepe their people and Teemes at worke,

One hundred and twentie daies yet ſpared for good Husbands, to inrich their land and themſelues.

A commendation of Cornewall and Deuonſhire.

if

if it pleaſe them, and ſuch as haue a better minde to vſe the Spade to ſet their Corne: and ſo by experience ſhall finde much better increaſe, which I will not denie, but it may be ſo; nor diſcommend the induſtrious inuention and practiſe of the Spade, and ſpeciallie for ſetting of poore people to worke, which indeede is a matter of great regard, which by no meanes I would hinder: for as in this action by ſetting of Corne, the chiefe and principall reſpect is the ſauing of ſuch a goodlie deale of Seede Corne yeerelie ſo fondlie caſt away, as before is ſhewed; ſo ſpeciallie by ſetting of Corne the pooreſt and moſt miſerable people, that can otherwiſe earne little or nothing, ſhall now be ſet to worke, becauſe they are beſt cheape to be hired, and are as well able to performe this worke as the luſtie labourers, that ſometime in ſome countries no reaſonable wages will intertaine them: theſe are fit for rich men, and to be imployed in rich land, where the owners may haue rich crops to pay ſuch great wages to ſuch proud labourers and ſeruants, that will ſerue and worke where they liſt, and haue what wages they liſt, and then doe what they liſt, make what lawes and ſtatutes her Maieſtie, her Councell and the Parliament can deuiſe: I meane ſuch ſeruants as intend not to ſerue their maſters faithfullie for their maſters profit, but for their owne, amongſt whom there are manie theeues, which ſome Gentlemen, Farmers and other, with their wiues and children haue dearely paid for, to their great and importable loſſe and hindrance. This proud kinde of ſlouens and ſluts, which ſome maſters haue and doe keepe from the halter, haue no need to be pitied, but rather to be puniſhed. And ſuch maſters whom it pleaſeth God to bleſſe with a good ſeruant, let him be accompted as a precious

The Plow and the Spade very good frieds, & allow each others worke for ſetting, as the place requireth.

Middleſex, Kent, and places neere the mightie citie of London.

A reward for faithfull and good ſeruants.

iewell, and vſed with due reſpect, pay him his wages trulie, and leaue him not a poore man: It is the Lord the great Maſter his commaundement by the wiſe *Salomon*, as you may reade in his Prouerbes. As touching the Inſtruments to bee employed about ſetting of Corne, although I might leaue euerie man to his owne inuention, or referre them to Maſter *Plats* booke, whoſe inſtructions in many things I doe commend: yet becauſe it may be that all men haue not that booke, and deſire ſome inſtruction, therefore I will recite an example of his, which he beſt commendeth, which is a boord of three foote in length, or thereabouts, and twelue or tenne inches in breadth, hauing diuers holes bored therein, according to ſuch diſtance as euerie particular man dooth beſt fanſie, through each of which holes a woodden dipper or pin to be thruſt into the ground, being of the bignes of ones finger, and of three or foure inches in length, hauing a ſhoulder or croſſe-pin to keepe one ſelfe ſame certaintie in the depth of each hole. Now my inuention is to haue two boords of ſome two foote broad euerie where, and in the middle a ſtaffe or handle ſet faſt to remoue them: or if any doe like better to haue them one foote broad, and two or three foot long, and in euerie of thoſe boords one or two ſtaues or handles, of ſome two foote high ſet faſt to remooue them, and alſo to leane vpon for their worſhips eaſe: but for this matter of making of holes, I muſt ſay with you maſter Scholler, *I profeſſe to preſſe this argument no further, being no part of my profeſsion*, but leaue it to them that ſhall vſe and practiſe this inuention. Only this I doe aduiſe that euerie man doe well conſider the qualitie of his owne ground, if it bee exceeding ranke, foure or fiue inches diſtance; but moſt commonly three or foure inches is likely to be moſt fit, and two or three

inches

inches deepe, as the ground is heauie or light. And peraduenture the clods may ſometime hinder: for which purpoſe this boorde and this handle or two be verie fit to thruſt downe the clods. Theſe boords are to be directed by a line, to keepe a ſtreight courſe in ſetting, hauing alwaies a Rake with thicke teeth and a broad head, which at one pull will ſufficiently fill all the holes. And for example, to ſuch as are verie ſimple, it is thought good to ſet downe the order of making of the holes in euerie boord, as the ſame holes ſhall be of diſtance more or leſſe: as if your boord be tenne inches broad and three foote long, and your holes fiue inches diſtance, there muſt bee two rowes of holes and ſeuen holes in a row, and at euery end and ſide there muſt be two inches and more left, and for euery ſcantling or diſtance, whether it be three, foure, or fiue inches, leaue alwaies the outſide and the ends halfe the diſtance or leſſe in euerie boord, and ſo it will make a true continuance of one ſcantling throughout all the worke. But if this labour by writing and printing be loſt in the behalfe of plowing and ſetting, and that men ſhuld continue ſo wilfullie blind to deſpiſe Gods bleſſings vpon themſelues, their poore neighbours, and the whole Common-wealth: yet it is to be wiſhed that where men are ſo obſtinatelie addicted to old cuſtome, they would yet follow the olde prouerbe, which ſaith, *A little land well tild, a little houſe well fild, and a little wife well wild*, no doubt but his little land would be as profitable for his purſe, as his little good wife comfortable to his minde.

Thus I draw to an end, deſiring the reader to take ſome view of ſuch great benefits as this action of plowing and ſetting may (by Gods mercie) bring to this our Countrie. And I leaue the ſucceſſe to Gods good bleſsing. And firſt (here I ſay) the plowing taketh away the laborious

and

and chargeable worke of the Spade, which made ſetting of corne ſeeme vnprofitable, and vnpoſſible to haue laborers and people ſufficient to dreſſe and ſet fiftie Acres, of three thouſand in a Pariſh, as the aduerſe booke ſuppoſeth. This now by plowing and ſetting is prooued that euerie third Acre may be ſet in all places throughout her Maieſties Dominions. Secondly, it prooueth plowing and ſetting to be leſſe chargeable then plowing and ſowing: Thirdly, wee haue prooued that this may be done by the ordinarie familie of moſt men, with ſome helpe of two or three of his pooreſt neighbours, old men and women, poore children, lame and diſtreſſed ſouldiers, that now can haue no worke for their liuing. Fourthly, I ſay this, theſe poore people (that indeede ought to bee kept from a ſtaruing kinde of life in ſo plentifull a Countrie as England is, by the wealthie inhabitants of euerie Pariſh, to whom now they are both chargeable and grieuous) by this good meanes they may be kept from hunger, cold, nakednes, and idlenes, breeding monſtrous vices againſt God, her Maieſtie, and this preſent happie State; deſeruing whipping and hanging, to the ſpoile of their bodies, & perill of their ſoules. Fiftly, it ſaueth great abundance of the beſt corne, growing within her Maieſties Dominions, which now is yeerly caſt away and loſt by ſowing, or rather burying it too deepe vnder furrow, or lying too ſhallow aboue furrow, for Crowes and Mice and other vermine to deuoure from the poore people. Sixtly, it ſpareth two parts of the land, that is, of thirtie Acres twentie may be ſpared to lie and reſt to gather hart for a while, and after when it is plowed againe it will bring forth increaſe of corne abundantly, as all mē know. Seuenthly, it will increaſe great ſtore of paſture in the common fields, to the reliefe of all cattell, and whereby

Prouiſion for lame ſouldiers and poore children. This benefit is not lightly to be reſpected.

there

there may be kept both greater number and better ſheep both for growth, wooll and ſoundnes, that by theſe meanes, being plentifullie fed, will inlarge the poore mans fould, and alſo they wil dung his land much better, to the like increaſe of corne in greater abundance. Eightly, it will ſaue great quantities of Hey and Corne for horſemeate, which now is ſpent vpon poore working cattell tired to death, with great ſtore of worke vpon much tillage of barren land: ſo that when by this meanes great quantities of graſſe and hey is ſaued from working cattell, then greater ſtore may be reſerued to the fatting of cattell; ſo that Gentlemen, Farmers, and other houſeholders may feede many of their owne Oxen, Cowes and Sheepe fat, and need not go ſo often to the Butchers, and then their Kine will giue much more milke to make Butter and Cheeſe, when they are much better fed with graſſe and hey plentifullie: and of theſe it will come to paſſe that their bacon Hogges ſhall be fed fat with their whey of their Kine, and with the corne that the working cattell were wont to eate vp, and then ſhall thoſe houſeholders haue leſſe neede of the Markets for their houſehold prouiſion, which will be a meanes to bring downe the price of all fleſh (fit to be eaten) and of white meate, that the poore Artificers and labourers may eate their victuals better cheape. Ninthly, it wil be a notable meanes to ouerthrow the wicked depopulation of the Lordes people, her Maieſties louing ſubiects, who haue bin moſt lamentably driuen out of their habitations, and diuers townes and villages, ouerthrowne by incloſures, which yet continue, and rather will increaſe, notwithſtanding the great care and order taken by her Maieſtie, and the great officers of her Kingdomes in the high Court of Parliament, as appeareth by an act made of purpoſe a-

Two hundred paſture ſheepe well fed, will dung a fould better then three hundred poore ſheepe hungerly kept

gainſt the ſame. Tenthly, it will breede and ſaue ſuch plentie of corne in England, by Gods helpe, that we may ſpare great quantities to be tranſported without any preiudice, but rather great good to all our Engliſh nation of all ſorts, as well poore as rich, to the great increaſe of the treaſurie of this Realme, the maintenance of our Engliſh Nauie, Shipping and Marriners, with prouiſion of victuals for her Maieſties ſouldiers and Armies, by Sea and by Land, to the feare and terror of all forreine enemies.

Setting of Corne good for Seafaring men, let them praiſe God alſo.

Theſe and many other excellent benefits (no doubt) would follow this good kinde of Husbandrie, which deſerueth a more learned handling then I can ſay, or doe profeſſe to be in me. If any man doe thinke this worke to be needleſſe, for that there is alreadie ſufficiently written in former bookes: I anſwere, that to my knowledge there is none that hath hitherto written of the plowing and ſetting of Corne; neither doe I perceiue the people ſo inſtructed, but rather moſt ignorant, and great numbers doe vtterly proteſt againſt the practiſe, as an idle noueltie, being lately diſcouraged by this Pamphlet, called *God ſpeede the Plough*. Now the Almightie bleſſe all good husbands in Husbandrie, and graunt a bleſſing to this mine endeuour, to his glorie, the honour of our Prince, the comfort of the poore, and the generall good of all the Land.

A COMPARISON BETWEENE PLOWING AND SOWING OF THREE ACRES of land, after the old fashion, and plowing and setting of one Acre after the manner declared in this Booke.

And first for the Charge.

THE rent of three Acres in most places is worth some fiue shillings an Acre. The land, according to the vse of the common fields, doth lie sommer fallow the first yeere, and beareth Corne the other, and so the Farmer payeth two yeeres rent before hee hath his crop, which rent commeth to thirtie shillings. A Computation for poore Farmers that pay great rents.

The plowing of these, if it bee well done, and as most grounds require, euery Acre foure times, which is twelue plowings, at two shillings euery time commeth to foure and twentie shillings.

The dunging of these three Acres with some twelue or fourteene loade vpon euery Acre, and is for three Acres some fortie loade, at sixe pence a loade, spread vpon the land, amounteth to twentie shillings.

The seede that will sow it is vsually two bushels and a halfe of Wheate or Rye for euery Acre, which is seuen bushels and a halfe, at foure shillings the bushel, commeth to thirtie shillings.

The weeding, reaping, and other charges in two yeers, though vncertaine, yet for example ten ſhillings. Thus two yeeres rent and charges commeth to fiue pound fourteene ſhillings.

The vſuall increaſe in the common fields barren land, hauing ſo little help with dung, is but two quarters vpon an Acre: but allow twentie buſhels to ſtop a wranglers mouth, which is for three Acres ſeuen quarters and a halfe, rated at foure ſhillings a buſhell, thirtie two ſhillings the quarter, commeth to twelue poundes. Out of which if you take the charge aforeſaid, there remaineth to the Farmer for his ſtock, ſixe pound ſixe ſhillings. And ſo for euery one of thoſe Acres, allowing ſo good increaſe and ſo great a price, the profit is two and fortie ſhillings.

Then let vs ſee what profit one Acre, being well plowed, well dunged, and orderly ſet, will yeeld, and ſo for the charge of one Acre. The rent of one Acre, at the price aforeſaid, which was fiue ſhillings an Acre, for two yeeres ten ſhillings. The plowing fiue times for this one Acre, if neede be, ten ſhillings. The dunging with fortie loade vpon this Acre at ſixe pence a loade, twentie ſhillings. The ſeede to ſet this one Acre, halfe a buſhell, two ſhillings. The ſetting of this Acre, one man at eight pence a day, and ſome foure poore people at foure pence a day, will ſet this Acre in ſome ſixe daies, and all their wages is twelue ſhillings. The weeding, reaping, and other charges, three ſhillings foure pence. The ſumme of the charges commeth to ſeuen and fiftie ſhillings foure pence.

This Acre ſo wel tilled, with three times as much dung as any one of the other, with excellent ſeede and orderly ſet, although we cannot promiſe thirtie or twentie quarters, yet we may haue ſeuen or eight quarters vpon an Acre, which is vſuall vpon very good land, which being ra-

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ted at foure ſhillings, as the other, commeth to twelue pound ſixteene ſhillings. Out of which alſo if you take the charge, which is fiftie ſeuen ſhillings foure pence, there will remaine nine pound eighteene ſhillings eight pence. And ſo this one Acre exceedeth the other three in profits, with halfe the ſtock, the ſumme of three pound twelue ſhillings eight pence. But ſuppoſe the foreſaid wrangler will not allow eight quarters vpon an Acre, yet ſet downe ſome fiue quarters, which commeth to fiue pound two ſhillings eight pence, the charges deducted, yet doth it exceede any one of the other by ſome three pound and eight pence.

Some part of this great profits I would haue beſtowed vpon the poore to weede this one Acre, in March or Aprill, or ſometime before the Corne be too high, to pull vp the weedes by the rootes, and then you ſhall ſee the Corne flouriſh: keepe downe the weedes, and haue no more neede of weeding in this ſeaſon.

Worke and prouiſion for olde poore weake men, their wiues and children.

Now a word or two to incourage a poore man that hath a wife and three or foure children, that often wanteth worke in ſome countries, yea though he be weake, ſickly or lame, yet he may ſet Corne with his familie, and haue ſufficient to ſerue his houſe: therefore let them fall to work cheerefully this next ſeaſon, and praiſe the Lord, for his mercie endureth for euer.

FINIS.